

Oklahoma Crop Weather



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Crops Still Need Moisture

Isolated thunderstorms brought relief from dry conditions for some areas of drought-stricken Oklahoma but additional rain is needed for sustained crop and forage development. Temperatures soared into triple digits by the end of the week and created heat stress for livestock. Topsoil moisture supplies decreased for the third straight week and have dwindled to the lowest level since the third week of April. Nearly 90 percent of the State's topsoil was rated in short to very short supply. Over 90 percent of the subsoil moisture was in short to very short supply. Although the northeastern third of Oklahoma remains dry, moisture conditions there are not as severe as the rest of the State. Farmers had 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the past week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	49	40	11	0
Last Week	49	36	15	0
Last Year	5	32	63	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	63	29	8	0
Last Week	63	28	9	0
Last Year	9	29	62	0

Small Grains: With the exception of a few scattered fields, small grain harvest was complete. Wheat stubble has been plowed at least once on 86 percent of the State's wheat acreage. Producers were gearing up to prepare fields for the 2007 wheat crop.

Row Crops: Hot temperatures have reduced most row crop condition ratings. Corn was in mostly excellent to good condition while all other row crops were rated in mostly good to fair condition. Only sorghum and cotton were behind the five-year average in development. Irrigation continued for cotton although some wells were becoming dry because of the prolonged drought. Water in Lake Altus was at a precariously low level. Although corn and sorghum development in the major-producing Panhandle district has not yet started, each of the remaining districts in Oklahoma reported well over half of the corn in the dough stage of development and at least 10 percent of the sorghum in the heading stage.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	5	22	20	25	28
Peanuts	1	7	41	40	11
Cotton	14	29	38	19	0
Sorghum	6	20	30	30	14
Soybeans	6	23	38	31	2

Hay: Alfalfa hay was rated in mostly fair to poor condition while other hay was rated mostly poor to very poor. Extreme heat and dry conditions tended to negate any benefits from last week's rain. Some grass was growing but the quantity was still small. More rain is needed to increase hay yields which have been running well below normal. Some ranchers are wary of keeping cattle this winter because of short forage and hay supplies.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	20	30	33	16	1
Other Hay	33	34	23	8	2

Miscellaneous Commodities: Watermelon harvest advanced to one week ahead of the five-year average. Peaches continued to be reported with a light fruit set.

Pasture and Range: Pastures continued to be rated in mostly poor condition. Hot temperatures and dry weather has caused some Panhandle native range to turn blue from heat stress. Cattlemen were concerned with the dry weather pattern and the possibility that pastures could enter the winter with little or no forage.

Livestock: Livestock were rated in mostly fair to poor condition. A large number of ranchers were supplemental feeding their cattle. With little or no grazing available and pond water becoming a problem, some producers were liquidating their herds. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds remained mostly steady and averaged \$120 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds continued to average just under \$112 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending July 16, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	26	23	32	19	0
Pasture & Range	29	32	27	11	1

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending July 16, 2006									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Peanuts -				
Plowed	86	80	82	82	Pegging	89	73	89	79
Rye -					Setting Pods	50	27	54	32
Plowed	91	88	91	55	Cotton -				
Oats -					Squaring	59	41	71	73
Plowed	85	81	84	80	Setting Bolls	9	6	7	15
Corn -					Alfalfa -				
Silking	85	72	72	67	2 nd Cutting	98	95	98	99
Dough	48	30	34	36	3 rd Cutting	62	45	73	60
Mature	6	4	6	6	4th Cutting	9	3	N/A	N/A
Sorghum -					Other Hay -				
Emerged	90	84	96	96	1 st Cutting	85	79	88	89
Headed	15	7	20	20	2 nd Cutting	11	7	19	28
Colored	4	1	4	3	Watermelon -				
Soybeans -					Setting Fruit	99	91	97	94
Emerged	99	92	97	96	Harvested	56	34	44	36
Blooming	45	29	29	37					
Setting Pods	19	13	10	14					

Weather for Week Ending July 16, 2006: Temperatures ranged from 60 degrees at Kenton on Tuesday, July 11th, to 107 degrees at Grandfield on Thursday, July 13th. Precipitation averaged 0.11 inches in the South Central district to 2.97 inches in the Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 75 degrees at Kenton on Monday, July 10th to 98 degrees at Burneyville on Sunday, July 16th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending July 16, 2006							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2006 to July 16, 2006		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Panhandle	97	67	82	0.28	6.78	-4.31	61
West Central	99	72	86	0.67	11.20	-3.66	75
Southwest	101	73	87	0.75	9.27	-5.91	61
North Central	100	73	86	0.31	10.60	-5.24	67
Central	98	73	85	1.75	13.38	-4.91	73
South Central	101	76	89	0.11	13.22	-5.65	70
Northeast	95	71	83	2.97	17.42	-1.98	90
East Central	97	73	84	1.91	17.07	-3.64	82
Southeast	100	73	86	0.30	18.88	-2.99	86

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